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Senate Passes Fire Safety First Package

LANSING—The Michigan Senate today unanimously passed the Fire Safety First Package, a set of bills requiring the installation of smoke alarms in multiple-unit dwellings and historical buildings. Sen. Michael Bishop, R-Rochester, sponsored one of the bills, Senate Bill 339, in the package and thanked his colleagues.

“I hope because of this legislation, the number of fire fatalities declines in the state,” Bishop said. “For too long, Michigan residents have thought fire alarms were required to be installed in many housing units but were wrong. This legislation tries to increase the number of homes protected from the start.”

The legislation came about after Flagstar Bank officials cited a 2001 study showing 148 people died in Michigan fires. Bank officials requested the introduction of legislation complimenting their smoke detector initiatives.

In 2002 the number of fire fatalities rose to 167. More than three-quarters of residential fatalities involved homes with no smoke alarm or one that was not working.

The package now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.